

THE SHOWDOWN OF THE CENTURY!

MARVEL COMICS VERSUS DC



#3
APRIL 95



MARZ • JURGENS • CASTELLINI • RUBINSTEIN • NEARY

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MARVEL COMICS **VERSUS** DC

ROUND THREE

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Dear
diary,

Been a while, huh?
Sorry I haven't
written. To tell you
the truth, things
have been kind
of crazy.

Well...

...to tell you the
truth, things have
been way crazy.
Like the whole
universe is coming
to an and crazy.



Now, where
to start?

Okay, this is what
I know. There's our
universe, right? And
then there's the
other one, kind of like
ours, but different.
Yeah, never heard
you, right?

The reason I know this
now is because the two
universes started merging
people and buildings and
everything came from one to the other.

Naturally,
everybody
needs...

...especially the
heroes, 'cause
they're trying to
to keep total
chaos from
breaking out

The thing is, nobody
can figure out what's
going on, not even
big deal brains
like Mr. Fantastic
or Professor
Xavier.

I mean,
everybody
wants to
know why it's
happening.



Maybe we shouldn't even ask. I'm still not sure I understand what I do know, but here goes.

There are these two, um, gods or entities or whatever you want to call them... one in each universe. Brothers, I guess. They're, like, the embodiment of everything in their universe.

A little tough to grasp, I know. Anyway, they both forgot the other one existed. But they noticed each other because of a few cosmic sort of events.



Now they've decided to find out whose universe is better, so they picked champions—including your favorite pyrokinetic mutant mall rat here—to settle it.

This is the deal: once we're summoned, we have to fight somebody from the other universe until one of us goes down for the count.

And it's not like we have a choice because the losing universe...

Well, here's the scary part... when it's all over, only one universe is going to survive!

Like I need that kind of pressure!



It's already started. They defeated this guy called Captain Marvel...



...but Namor lost to Aquaman...



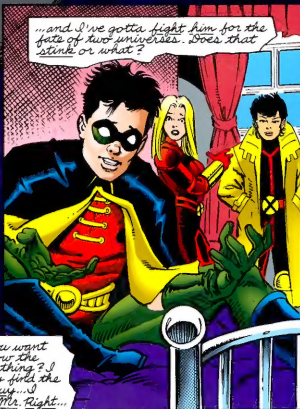
...and Quicksilver couldn't outrun the Flash. So right now we're losing two-to-one.



It's weird—creepy weird, I mean—how people are reacting, treating this like it's the Super Bowl or something.



...and I've gotta fight him for the fate of two universes. Does that stink or what?



Maybe it's easier to do that than really think about the consequences. Sort of whistling in the dark.

But you want to know the worst thing? I finally find the right guy...I mean Mr. Right...







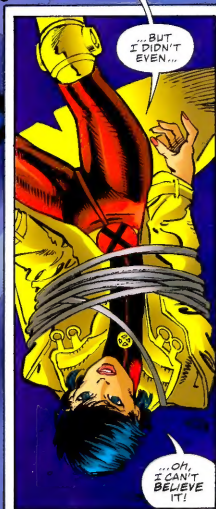


HEY!

THAT
WAS YOUR
CAPE! YOU
TRICKED
ME!

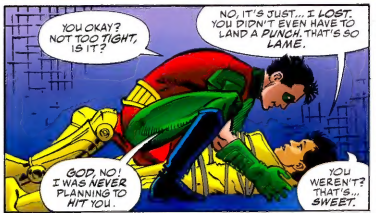
I HAD
A HECK OF A
TEACHER.

BUT...



...BUT
I DIDN'T
EVEN...

...OH,
I CAN'T
BELIEVE
IT!



YOU OKAY?
NOT TOO TIGHT,
IS IT?

NO, IT'S JUST... I LOST.
YOU DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TO
LAND A PUNCH. THAT'S SO
LAME.

GOD, NO!
I WAS NEVER
PLANNING TO
HIT YOU.

YOU
WEREN'T?
THAT'S...
SWEET.



U/M, YOU ARE
PLANNING ON UN-
TYING ME THOUGH,
RIGHT,
HANDSOME?



SINCE YOU
PUT IT THAT
WAY...



DEEP SPACE.

MAN, I DON'T WANT TO BE DOING THIS.



NOR IS IT TO MY LIKING, GREEN LANTERN...

...BUT THIS COMBAT BETWEEN US IS NECESSARY.



IN THE PAST, YOU AND I HAVE PRESERVED OUR TWO UNIVERSES BY ACTING TOGETHER.

NOW WE ATTEMPT TO SAVE AT LEAST ONE BY BATTLING EACH OTHER.



THE COSMIC BEINGS WHO COMMAND US ARE THE MOST POWERFUL ENTITIES I'VE EVER ENCOUNTERED.

EVEN MY FORMER MASTER GALACTUS PALES BEFORE THEM!

I'M NOT SAYING WE HAVE A CHOICE, SURFER...

UFF!



...I'M
JUST SAYING
I DON'T LIKE
IT.

BUT I'LL
DO EVERY-
THING I CAN
TO WIN.

AS
MUST
I.

THE
VICTORY
IS
MINE...

...YET
NEVER
HAVE I MORE
REGRETTED
AN
OPPONENT'S
DEFEAT.





--HHE?!



STRONG
LITTLE THING,
AREN'T
YOU?

I'M AN
ASSASSIN. I
KILL MY OPPONENTS
GLADLY.

YEAH, WELL,
DON'T GO TO ANY
EXTRA TROUBLE ON
MY ACCOUNT.

BUT OUR
COMBAT WAS NOT
OF MY CHOOSING. I
WON'T SLAY YOU
MERELY TO APPEASE
THE BEINGS WHO
FORCE THIS
BATTLE...



...BUT
I WILL
WIN.



**GREAT
STORY,
LOIS...**

...NO
WONDER
YOU'VE GOT A
PULITZER.

THANKS, PETER.

BUT I WOULDN'T
HAVE BEEN AROUND
TO WRITE IT IF YOU
HADN'T SAVED ME
FROM THE
SCARECROWS.

JUST ONE
OF THE SERVICES
OF YOUR FRIENDLY
NEIGHBORHOOD...
LHM, PHOTO-
JOURNALIST.

LISTEN, I'VE
REALLY ENJOYED
WORKING WITH
YOU, AND I WAS
THINKING... **WONDER-**
ING, REALLY,,, IF
YOU'D WANT TO SEE
A MOVIE WITH ME,
MAYBE GET SOME
DINNER.

I THOUGHT A NICE,
NORMAL DATE WOULD
BE A LITTLE SANITY IN THE
MIDST OF ALL THIS CRAZY
STUFF GOING ON.

WELL,
THAT'S...
UH, I'M
FLATTERED,
PETER,
REALLY,
BUT...

...I'M
ENGAGED.

TO ME.

of

OH, MAN,
I DIDN'T
KNOW. I'M
SORRY. JE
YOU COUL
SQUASH A
LIKE A BL
CLARK.

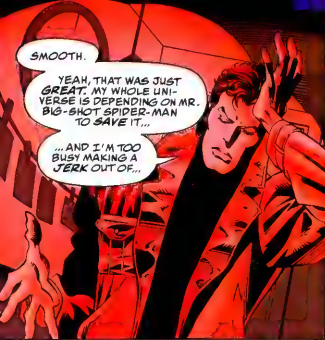
NO HARM
DONE,
PETER

I'LL JUST BE
GOING NOW. TO
THE DARK ROOM.

TO ROLL SOME
FILM. OR DEVELOP
SOME.

OR DIE
OF EM-
BARRASS-
MENT.

Dark Run



SMOOTH.

YEAH, THAT WAS JUST GREAT. MY WHOLE UNIVERSE IS DEPENDING ON MR. BIG-SHOT SPIDER-MAN TO SAVE IT...

...AND I'M TOO BUSY MAKING A JERK OUT OF...



...MYSELF?



BOY, HE DISAPPEARED FAST ONCE YOU SHOWED UP.

PETER'S A NICE KID, LOIS. HE JUST DIDN'T KNOW YOU AND I--



WORD JUST CAME IN! THE HULK AND SOME FREAK NAMED METALLO ARE BASHING EACH OTHER AROUND DOWNTOWN!

INNOCENT LIVES AT RISK! PROPERTY DAMAGE! THE MAKINGS OF A GREAT STORY!

I WANT YOU TWO ON IT AS--

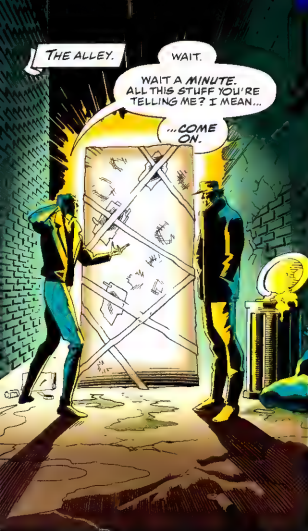


HEY, WHERE'D KENT GO?

UM, DON'T WORRY, JONAH...



"...I'M SURE HE'S ON THE JOB ALREADY!"



THE ALLEY.

WAIT.

WAIT A MINUTE.
ALL THIS STUFF YOU'RE
TELLING ME? I MEAN...

...COME
ON.



TWO WHOLE
UNIVERSES EMBODIED
IN THESE COSMIC... BROTHERS,
OR WHATEVER YOU WANNA
CALL THEM.

AND I'M SUPPOSED
TO BE SOME KIND OF
SHARD FROM THE TWO
OF THEM? THAT'S WHY
I'VE BEEN A WANDERER
ALL MY LIFE?

NO!

I DON'T
BELIEVE
IT. I
CAN'T.

I'M
NOTHING
SPECIAL,
AND I DON'T
WANT TO
BE.



YOU'RE
JUST SOME
CRAZY
HOMELESS
GUY, THAT'S
ALL.

AM
I?



AND THAT'S JUST
A CARDBOARD
BOX? IT'S ALL
TRUE...

...AND IN
YOUR HEART,
YOU KNOW IT.
YOU FEEL IT.

THIS PLACE
IS THE CRUX OF
EVERYTHING,
AND YOU ARE THE
KEY. IF ANY-
THING IS TO BE
PRESERVED...



...YOU MUST
BE THE ONE TO DO
IT, AXEL ASHER!
THE ANSWER LIES
WITHIN YOU!

HEY!
WHAT'RE
YOU...?

...WHOA.

WHAT'D YOU DO TO ME?!

UNLEASHED
WHAT'S INSIDE OF YOU.
EACH OF US CHOOSES THE
GUISE BEST SUITED TO
WHO WE ARE. THIS IS
MINE; THAT'S YOURS.

I TOLD YOU
I'M A SHARD
OF THE BROTHERS,
JUST LIKE YOU.
I'VE BEEN THE
KEEPER OF THE
GATEWAY
BETWEEN THE TWO
UNIVERSES.

YOU SEE
IT AS A BOX
BECAUSE THAT'S
WHAT I WANT IT
TO BE. IT MIGHT
BE SOMETHING
DIFFERENT
FOR YOU...

...BECAUSE
YOU'RE NEXT
IN THE LONG
SUCCESSION OF
KEEPERS. MY
TIME IS ALMOST
UP. YOU HAVE
TO TAKE UP THE
MANTLE...

...YOU
HAVE TO
BECOME THE
ACCESS.

EVERY-
THING'S BEEN
LEADING TO THIS
MOMENT. YOUR
WATCH IS MORE
CRUCIAL THAN
ANY THAT HAVE
COME BEFORE.

IT
FALLS TO
YOU TO
PRESERVE
THE BALANCE
BETWEEN THE
TWO
UNIVERSES.

YEAH,
BUT...

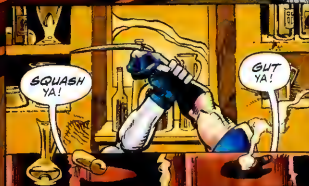
...HOW
DO I DO
THAT?



FAR, FAR AWAY...







OUTSIDE
FAWCETT
CITY...

MERELY
GRASPING THE
HAMMER TRANSFORMED
ME. THE POWER COURSES
THROUGH ME, MORE POWER
THAN I EVER HAD AS
WONDER WOMAN...

...THE
POWER OF
A GOD.

"WHOEVER HOLDS
THIS HAMMER, IF HE
BE WORTHY, SHALL
POSSSESS THE POWER OF...
THOR"

IF I
MUST FIGHT
YOU IN THIS
GUISE...

WHO?

...THEN SO
BE IT. BUT I
WARN YOU... I,
TOO, HAVE BEEN
CALLED A GODDESS,
AND THE LIGHTNING
IS AT MY COMMAND,
AS WELL.

I AM
STORM, OF
THE X-MEN.

I WAS
TRANSPORTED
HERE. WE ARE
MEANT TO BATTLE,
YOU AND I.

I FEAR
YOU'VE NO HOPE
OF WINNING SUCH
A CONTEST WHILE
I WIELD THIS
WEAPON.

I COULD GAIN
AN EASY VICTORY.
BUT SUCH A
BATTLE...

PERHAPS.

BUT I
WILL NOT
YIELD.

...WOULD
NOT BE
FAIR.



WE FACE ONE
ANOTHER AS WAS
INTENDED. I MAY
HAVE GIVEN UP AN
ADVANTAGE...

...BUT
THE VICTORY'S
STILL GOING TO
BE MINE.

NOT
WHILE MY MUTANT
ABILITIES ALLOW
ME TO CONTROL THE
ELEMENTS THEM-
SELVES. THE SKIES
HEED ME!

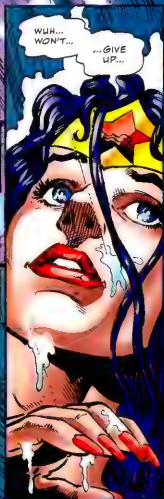
AT MY
COMMAND, THE WIND
BLOWS ITSELF INTO A
GALE! THE RAIN BECOMES
A TORRENT!

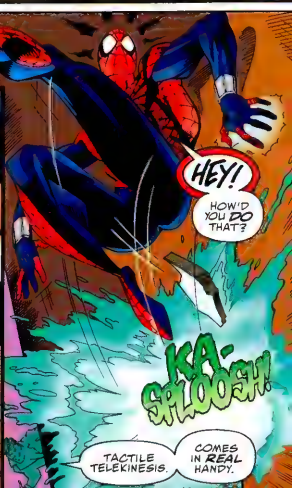
...TO BEST AN
AMAZON CHAMPION
WITH THE STRENGTH OF
THE GREEK GODS!

YOU'RE
GOING
TO NEED
MORE
THAN BAD
WEATHER...

WHUD!

NNE!







NEAT TRICK.

SO WHAT'S YOUR STORY, KID?

YOU SUPERMAN'S KID BROTHER? SECOND COUSIN? WHAT?

I'M A CLONE. TRY TO GRASP THE CONCEPT.



A CLONE?!

YEAH, A CLONE.

HOPES YOU DON'T HAVE A PROBLEM GETTING YOUR BUTT KICKED BY ONE.



IF THERE'S ANY KICKING AROUND HERE, JUNIOR...



...IT'S MY FOOT IN YOUR FACE!

I PACK MORE OF A WALLOP THAN YOU EXPECTED, RIGHT? COMPARATIVE STRENGTH OF A SPIDER WILL DO THAT.

UUNNF!

WHAKK!



COMPARATIVE
AGILITY,
TOO.

BUT PROBABLY NOT
ENOUGH OF EITHER TO
BEAT YOU SLUGGING IT OUT
IN CLOSE QUARTERS.

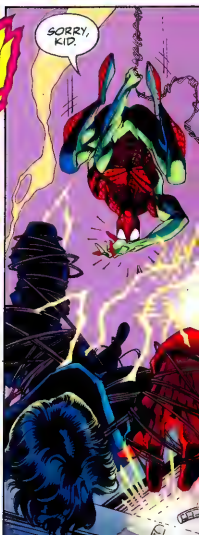
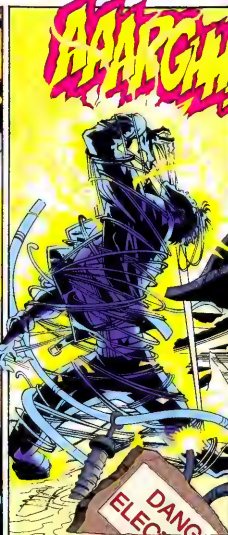
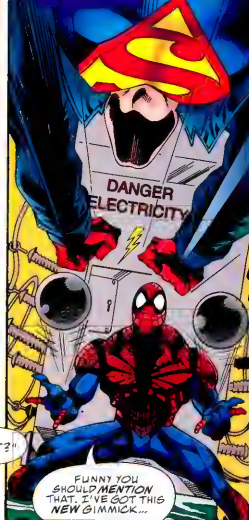
SUPES?
KID?

WHERE
ARE YOU?
THIS SNEAKY
STUFF IS
SUPPOSED TO BE MY
GAG.

uh-oh.

HE'S
BELOW--

--MMPH!!--





METROPOLIS.

YOU'RE GOING
TO BE DEFEATED
AGAIN, METALLO...
...JUST LIKE
EVERY OTHER
TIME.

KLANG!

I'M GUESSING
YOU'RE THE SUPER-
MAN THIS METAL
GEEK'S BEEN RANTING
ABOUT?

I AM.

AND YOU'RE CALLED THE
HULK?

ACTUALLY,
I PREFER DR.
BANNER. OR
BRUCE.

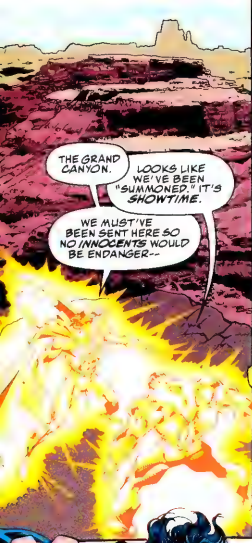
I'LL DESTROY BOTH
OF YOU! I'LL--



...PROTECTING
IT?

HERE WE GO
AGAIN.

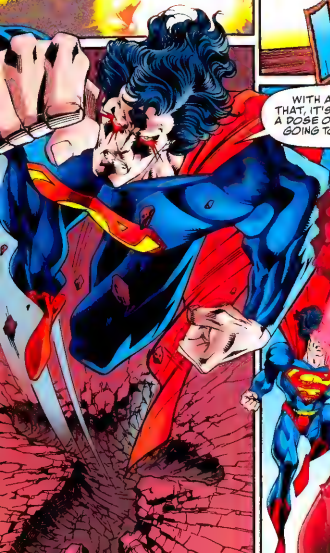
METROPOLIS IS
MY CITY, BRUCE,
BUT THANKS FOR
THE HELP...



THE GRAND CANYON.

LOOKS LIKE WE'VE BEEN "SUMMONED." IT'S SHOWTIME.

WE MUST'VE BEEN SENT HERE SO NO INNOCENTS WOULD BE ENDANGER--



WITH A PUNCH LIKE THAT, IT'S PRETTY OBVIOUS A DOSE OF HEAT VISION ISN'T GOING TO PROVE FATAL...

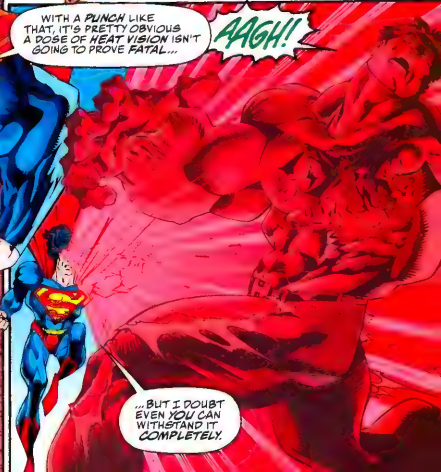
AAGH!!



--DHH!!

LET'S JUST GET DOWN TO IT.

KATOOM!



...BUT I DOUBT EVEN YOU CAN WITHSTAND IT COMPLETELY.





I'D PREFER TO CONSIDER YOU A FRIEND, HULK, BUT WITH EVERYTHING THAT'S AT STAKE, I DON'T THINK I CAN.

FOR ME TO SAVE MY WORLD, MY UNIVERSE, AND MOST OF ALL THE WOMAN I LOVE...

...I HAVE TO PUT YOU DOWN!



HE TOOK EVERYTHING I HAD, AND ALMOST STOOD UP TO IT.

NOTHING LEFT NOW...

...EXCEPT THE WAITING.



MANHATTAN.

SPLSH!

BATMAN
MELTS INTO THE
SHADOWS SO
EASILY...

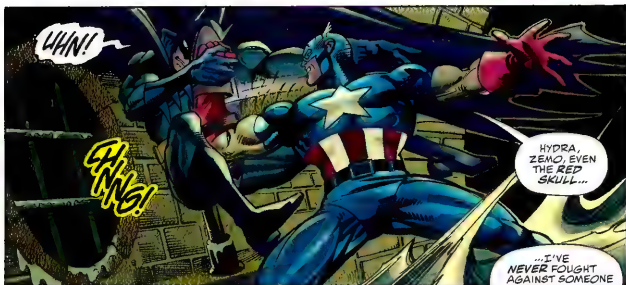
...LIKE
HE'S A PART
OF THEM. I CAN'T
FIGHT WHAT I
CAN'T...

...FIND.



HNNF!

CHUD!





SHFF?

SHFF?

SHFF?

WE'VE BEEN
AT IT FOR **HOURS**.
WE COULD BATTLE
FOR **DAYS**...

...AND NOT HAVE A WINNER
UNTIL ONE OF US DROPS FROM
EXHAUSTION. WE SHOULD BE
LOOKING FOR SOME OTHER
OPTION.

WE WEREN'T
GIVEN A **CHOICE**.
WE HAVE TO FIGHT
UNTIL **SOMEONE**
GOES DOWN.

BILLIONS UPON BILLIONS
OF LIVES **HINGE** ON
THESE BATTLES. WE
SHOULD BE TRYING TO
FIND A WAY TO **CIRCUMVENT** THIS...

...AND STOP THOSE
COSMIC BEINGS FROM
WIPING OUT ONE
UNIVERSE OR THE
OTHER.

HOW?

IF THERE'S NO
OUTCOME, THE
ENTITIES MIGHT WELL
DESTROY **BOTH**
UNIVERSES.



I KNOW YOU
WEREN'T **AROUND**
THEN, BUT BACK IN THE
'40'S I BECAME
CAPTAIN AMERICA TO
SAVE THE WORLD
FROM THE GREATEST
THREAT IT HAD EVER
KNOWN.

THAT'S STILL WHAT
I'M TRYING TO DO.

WE'RE LIKE RATS
IN A MAZE, BATMAN.
WE HAVE TO FOLLOW
THIS THROUGH TO
THE **END**.



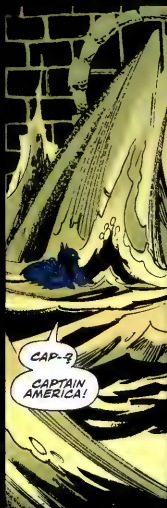
ONE OF THE
REASONS I
BECAME BAT-
MAN IS TO PRO-
TECT INNOCENTS.
I SUPPOSE
THIS IS NO
DIFFERENT.

ALL
RIGHT, THEN.
TO THE **END**.
MAY THE BEST
MAN--



THE
SYSTEM'S BEING
FLUSHED OUT!

SPOOSH!!





...WE'LL
BE OUT OF
HERE IN A
SECOND.

ARE YOU
ALL RIGHT?

SWALLOWED SOME WATER
AND TOOK A BUMP ON THE
HEAD. YOU'RE GOOD WITH
THAT... BATARANG, YOU
CALLED IT?

BUT I'M FINE...
EXCEPT FOR COMING
UP SHORT. I LOST,
AND MAYBE DOOMED
AN ENTIRE UNIVERSE.



WE'RE BOTH STILL
HERE, SO THIS ISN'T
OVER YET. WHAT
NOW?

I'M NOT
SURE, I
DIDN'T
EXPECT--

THAT BOX. DO
YOU SEE THAT BOX,
IN THE ALLEY?
GLOWING?



ONE FROM
EACH
UNIVERSE!

THEY'RE
OUR CHANCE!
WE CAN STILL
SAVE EVERY-
THING!



ACCESS, HURRY!

THERE'S NO TIME LEFT! THE BOX WON'T CONTAIN IT ANYMORE! WE CAN'T KEEP THE BROTHERS FROM--

NO!

IT'S HAPPENING!

"THE BATTLES
ARE OVER, AND
ONLY *ONE*
UNIVERSE IS
BEING SPARED..."

"...BUT NOT
THE *WINNING*
UNIVERSE!"

"*ONE*
UNIVERSE
IS BEING
ELIMINATED..."

"...BUT NOT
THE *LOSING*
UNIVERSE!"

"THE BROTHERS
ARE SETTling
THE CONTEST
THEIR *OWN* WAY..."

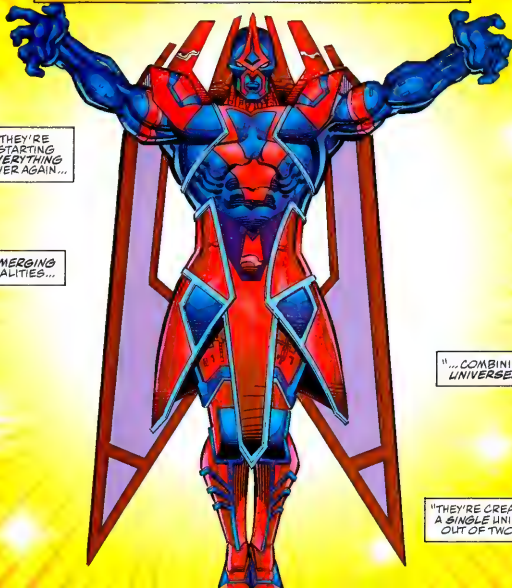
"...BY COMING TOGETHER,
FUSING ALL THAT THEY
ARE SO THEY CAN CO-
EXIST AS ONE UNIFIED
BEING."

"THEY'RE
STARTING
EVERYTHING
OVER AGAIN..."

"...MERGING
REALITIES..."

"...COMBINING
UNIVERSES!"

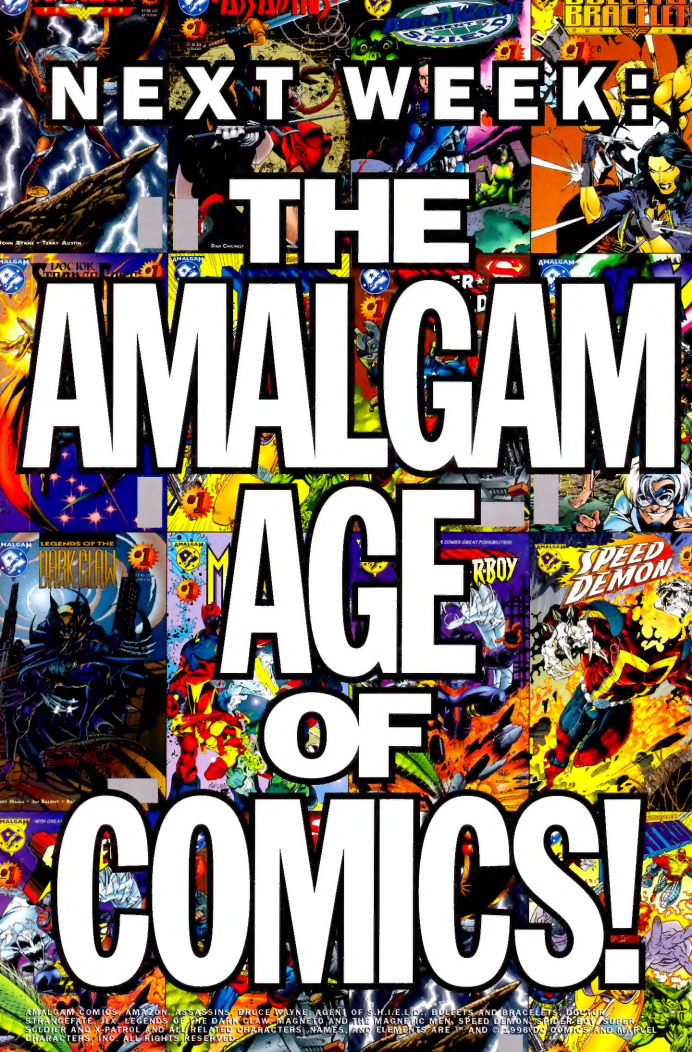
"THEY'RE CREATING
A *SINGLE* UNIVERSE
OUT OF TWO..."





"...BUT **WHAT**
HAVE THEY
CREATED?"

NEXT WEEK : THE
COMING OF THE
AMALGAM
UNIVERSE!



NEXT WEEK!

THE AMALGAM AGE OF COMICS!

AMALGAM COMICS AMAZON ASSASSINS, BRUCE WAYNE, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D., BULLETS AND BRACELETS, DOCTOR STRANGE, THE JLU, LEGENDS OF THE DARK CLAW, MAGNETO AND THE MAGNETIC MEN, SPEED DEMON, SPEED BOY, SUPER SOLDIER AND X-PATROL AND ALL RELATED CHARACTERS, NAMES AND ELEMENTS ARE TM AND © 1996 DC COMICS AND MARVEL CHARACTERS, INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

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MINUTEMEN

KANG HAS NEVER SERVED ANY BUT *HIMSELF*. WHY SHOULD I *ACCEPT* SUCH AN OFFER, ESPECIALLY FROM AN UNKNOWN?

BUT WE ARE *NOT* UNKNOWN, GREAT KANG. YOU KNOW US WELL. AND WE KNOW YOU.

The Kang Council!

Like it?
BUY IT!

